



Shelby County Office of Preparedness HLS / EMA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Memphis, TN

Fall: The Second Severe Weather Season



As gold and red leaves clutter the ground and temperatures continue to drop, we can rest assured that fall is here. During the autumn months, it is easy to forget about this "second severe weather season" that is upon us. Be aware that there is a potential for unexpected inclement weather during the fall in the form of tornadoes and thunderstorms here in the Mid South. The Shelby County Office of Preparedness HLS / EMA, under the direction of Bob Nations, Jr., urges citizens to stay alert for severe weather and be prepared.

Know the terms:

Severe Thunderstorm Watch: weather conditions are changing and severe thunderstorms are likely. Listen to NOAA weather radio or television for updates and instructions.

Severe Thunderstorm Warning: severe thunderstorms have been seen by spotters or radar. Take shelter immediately! Winds of 58 miles per hour or greater and possibly hail may be reported.

Tornado Watch: weather conditions are changing and tornadoes are possible. Look to the sky and listen to NOAA weather radio or television for updates.

Tornado Warning: a tornado has been sighted by spotters or radar. Take shelter immediately!

Follow these preparedness steps to survive severe fall weather:

- Learn the potential risks and hazards in your region
- Meet with your family and co-workers and create disaster plans for each potential hazard
- Have an ALERT FM receiver and a NOAA Weather Radio with a tone alert at home and work
- Make a disaster kit for home, work and auto to sustain you and your family for at least 7 days
- Learn more than one route to work, home and out of the city in case of evacuation
- Designate an out-of-state family member as the emergency contact person everyone will call in case you get separated in a disaster
- Learn how to safely turn off utilities
- Designate a "safe room" at home and work (the most interior room with the most walls surrounding it)
- Keep a copy of important insurance and medical documents in your disaster kit and ship a copy to a trusted person out of state
- Consider the supplies and plans to be adjusted for a special needs or senior relative, friends or coworkers
- Have a plan for pets to include a disaster kit, permanent ID, vet records, food, water and medications
- Learn safety and survival skills through the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training. CERT teaches citizens to survive disasters until emergency personnel make the scene

Take time during the approaching holidays as we gather with family and friends to talk about the importance of disaster preparedness.

Helpful resources:

www.ready.gov

www.fema.gov

www.mscema.org

www.staysafemidsouth.us

www.nws.noaa.gov

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